

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

Pacific Northwest Medical Association, Portland, Oregon, July 8-11, 1936. C. W. Countryman, Medical and Dental Building, Spokane, secretary.

Pan-Pacific Surgical Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii, August 6-14, 1936. George W. Swift, M. D., 902 Boren Avenue, Seattle, Washington, president.

Medical Broadcasts*

The American Medical Association broadcasts have been discontinued for the summer months. A new series is under consideration for the autumn and winter of 1936-1937.

San Francisco County Medical Society.—The radio broadcast program for the San Francisco County Medical Society for the month of July is as follows:

Tuesday, July 7—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, July 14—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, July 21—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, July 28—KYA, 6 p. m.

Los Angeles County Medical Association.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of July is as follows:

Saturday, July 4—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, July 4—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and you.
Tuesday, July 7—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, July 11—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, July 11—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, July 14—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, July 18—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, July 18—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, July 21—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, July 25—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, July 25—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, July 28—KECA, 10:30 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

Alpha Gamma Mu Alpha.—A new society was born at Kansas City during the recent American Medical Association meeting—the A. G. M. A. (Alpha Gamma Mu Alpha), a postgraduate medical fraternity; secret, of course. Its object is to promote thought. It has no dues. Initiation fees are \$1. Its members must belong to their County, State, and American Medical societies. Its meetings are held when and where the American Medical Association meets.

Its officers are: President, Arthur E. Guedel, 613 North Elm Drive, Beverly Hills, California; secretary-treasurer, LeRoy S. Peters, National Bank Building, Albuquerque, New Mexico; delegate, John W. Shuman, 3780 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

*County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Dean E. P. Lyon of the University of Minnesota Retires.—At the close of the present academic year, Dr. E. P. Lyon, Dean of the Medical School, retires from active service at the University of Minnesota. During his administration, covering a period of twenty-three years, the Medical School has exhibited steady and continued growth. As a fitting tribute to his stimulating leadership, the alumni and faculty of the Medical School propose to establish in his honor the Elias Potter Lyon Medical Lectureship at the University of Minnesota. The fund for this purpose is to be raised through subscriptions by alumni, faculty, students, and friends. Contributions to the Lyon Lectureship fund may be sent to Mr. William T. Middlebrook, Comptroller, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Corrections in the U. S. P. XI.—Since the appearance of the new Pharmacopeia in December of 1935, the text has been subjected to intensive review and some corrections have been found necessary. In so far as these cover typographical errors or accidental inaccuracies, authority has been given to publish the list of corrections in pharmaceutical and medical journals.

Purchasers of the new Pharmacopeia may also obtain a printed list of these corrections for insertion in their copies of the United States Pharmacopeia. Send a three-cent stamp to cover postage to the publishers of the Pharmacopeia, the Mack Printing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania.

Questions have also arisen concerning certain pharmacopeal assays or tests, and these are under investigation. In those cases where it becomes desirable to revise any of the printed monographs such changes will be announced by "Interim Revision" procedure.

Industrial Accident Commission: Safety Department.—The committees that have been considering the Mine Safety Orders met in Los Angeles on May 25, 1936, and in San Francisco on June 4, 1936. The orders have been revised in accordance with the suggestions received at previous meetings of the committees and from other sources.

On May 27, 1936, the State Traffic Safety Advisory Committee met in the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles.

The second annual meeting of the Western Safety Conference will be held at Salt Lake City on September 21, 22, 23, and 24, 1936. The reports from B. D. Nebeker, Industrial Commissioner of Utah, are that twenty-two safety organizations have joined hands in making this an outstanding meeting.

In addition to the eleven western states (California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Utah) Baja California, British Columbia, and Hawaiian Territory have been invited to participate.

The Department of Public Health has released the figures for accidental deaths in California for 1935. Of the 477 occupational deaths listed, 142 were due to trade, 88 to agriculture, 67 to construction, and 60 to transportation and public utilities. Mining and quarrying were responsible for forty-eight deaths.

The necessity of each individual knowing how, when and where to swim is forcibly brought to light by the fact that 324 persons were drowned during the year. In the homes there were 251 deaths from conflagrations, burns and explosions, and falls killed 805; of the latter, 596 were to persons of sixty-five years or over.

Fewer Homicides in California.—During 1935 there were forty fewer homicides than in 1934. There were registered with the California State Department of Public Health 435 homicides in 1934 as compared with 395 in 1935. Of the 395 such events that were recorded last year, 337 were murders and 49 were justifiable homicides, 30 by police officers and 19 by other individuals.

Most homicides are caused by firearms. Relatively few are caused by cutting and piercing instruments. The ready availability of firearms probably constitutes the most important factor in the production of homicides.

Out of 395 homicides reported last year 117 were in Los Angeles and 29 in San Francisco. There were 11 in Sacramento, 9 in San Diego, 7 in Stockton, and 7 in San Bernardino. The remainder were scattered throughout the state.

It will be noted that an average of more than one homicide occurs in California for every day in the year.

Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works in California.—The Public Works Administration program in California has reached a volume of 395 non-federal projects representing a total estimated cost of approximately \$136,000,000, according to a special report made recently to A. D. Wilder, State Public Works Administration Director, 1210 Hewes Building, San Francisco.

That the Public Works Administration has spread a blanket of employment activity in the federal and non-federal divisions of its program over the entire fifty-eight counties of California, is the additional information contained in the report confirmed by the Public Works Administration's Division of Economics and Statistics in Washington.

Of the 395 non-federal projects widely distributed in California, 119 are entirely completed; 233 are in process of completion; and 43 are ready to start, excepting for a few details in the thorough preliminary preparations. A large proportion of the projects being built are nearly finished.

The number of projects and the amount of the total investment are about evenly divided between Northern California and Southern California. The bulk of the millions invested in the Public Works Administration permanent projects in California is in public school buildings, which comprise more than \$58,000,000, or 43 per cent of the entire program.

The total number of projects is not regarded as truly representative of the magnitude of the work in California, in the opinion of the Public Works Administration officials. They state there are several multiple projects and cite as an illustration a single project in Los Angeles which includes four hundred school buildings.

A. D. Wilder, State Public Works Administration Director, emphasizes the fact that, of the estimated cost of \$136,000,000 for the non-federal projects for California, the sum of \$70,000,000 was put up by Uncle Sam's partners, in the shape of California's county and city governments, school or irrigation districts, or other similar bodies; and the balance of \$66,000,000 by the Federal Government.

"The cooperation and teamwork between the Federal Government and the numerous local units of government in this Public Works Administration program in California has been most harmonious and effective," said Mr. Wilder. "In some instances, 70 per cent of the amount was provided locally; on other projects, 55 per cent of the estimated cost was borne by the authorized political or private unit.

"California Public Works Administration program has not only given employment to thousands of men and women on the sites of the projects, but the material orders have given employment to innumerable more thousands in the durable goods industries in this state and other states. California's part in the national program has been a mighty factor in stimulating additions to numerous payrolls in the heavy goods industries in the mid-West and East. Millions of California's and the Federal Government's dollars have bought materials to build enduring and beneficial public works in this state, as well as being the cause of hiring more employees on transportation systems and like auxiliary activities."

Julius Rosenwald Fund Report.—At the regular spring meetings of the Julius Rosenwald Fund concluded yesterday its trustees expressed gratification at the accomplishments of the Fund in cooperation with other agencies in making good medical care more available to people of small means. They expressed their continued interest in medical economics and their desire that programs in this field be carried forward effectively. During the past year plans for making medical care more available to people of small means have grown substantially. Voluntary insurance to lower the cost of hospital care—group hospitalization—has doubled now, covering some 350,000 persons, with plans being established monthly in new communities. . . . The Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, will continue to assist in the extension of the insurance principle in relation to hospital service, in scientific studies concerning the cost and the organization of medical care and in the education of qualified personnel for studying and administering hospitals and clinics.

Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. When one new employee is hired on a PWA project, four and a half new employees are added to the payrolls of industries supplying materials for that project, according to a survey received today by A. D. Wilder, State Public Works Administration Director, 1210 Hewes Building, San Francisco.

The special report was made to the California Public Works Administration state office by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Department of Labor, which had completed a study of a cross section of Public Works Administration operations in the form of six completed power projects which shows "that the indirect labor in relation to direct labor was four and one-half to one."

"We cannot place too much emphasis on the importance of the vast amount of indirect labor which is created by projects of the Public Works Administration in California," said State Public Works Administration Director, A. D. Wilder. "Our off-site employment is greatly in excess of our direct labor and equally, if not more, beneficial. Such facts are well shown by this special survey by the Department of Labor."

American College of Surgeons: Clinical Congress.—The twenty-sixth annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons will be held in Philadelphia, October 19-23, 1936, with headquarters at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. This will be the fifth congress in Philadelphia, and the American College of Surgeons is looking forward with great interest to viewing again the work of colleagues in that great medical center with its many fine hospitals, splendid schools, and large group of outstanding clinicians.

The Philadelphia Committee on Arrangements is planning a clinical program which will provide a complete showing of the surgical activities at the five medical schools and more than thirty hospitals that will participate. All branches of surgery will be represented therein. Among the special features of the clinical program are: (1) Cancer clinics, demonstrating treatment by surgery, radium and x-ray; (2) fracture clinics, presenting modern methods of treatment; and (3) clinics in traumatic surgery, demonstrating the newer methods of rehabilitation of the injured. A preliminary clinical program is presented in the current issue of *Surgery, Gynecology, and Obstetrics*, and in the June *Bulletin* of the College.

The Congress opens on Monday morning, October 19, with the annual hospital conference. On Monday evening, at the presidential meeting, the new officers will be inaugurated. The address of the retiring president, Dr. Donald C. Balfour, will be a feature of this meeting. On Friday evening, at the annual convocation of the College, Dr. Eugene H. Pool, president-elect, will deliver his inaugural address and the 1936 class of initiates will be received into fellowship.

At other evening scientific meetings and at various conferences during the week, eminent surgeons of the United States and Canada, with a number of distinguished visitors from foreign countries, will present and discuss papers on surgical subjects of timely importance.

Standards Set for Canned Dog Foods.—Effective June 3, 1936, all dog and cat foods packed in California must comply with state standards regarding quality of ingredients and labeling, according to an order issued by Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director of the California State Department of Public Health. After this date, all such canned products that do not conform to the California Pure Foods Act will be seized wherever they may be found in the state.

It has been discovered that during the depression some underprivileged individuals began the practice of eating canned dog and cat foods because of the belief that their meat content was high. Recent investigations have revealed the fact that putrid inedible and diseased products are sometimes used in the manufacture of commercially packed dog and cat foods. In order to stop this practice, the state health authorities will hereafter regard as adulterated, within the meaning of the California Pure Foods Act, any canned dog and cat foods that consist in whole or in part of filthy, decomposed or putrid animal or vegetable substances, of any portion of an animal or vegetable unfit for food, whether manufactured or not, or if it is the product of a diseased animal, or one that has died otherwise than by slaughter.

Such canned food must be packed in hermetically sealed containers and the contents must be wholesome and nutritious for dogs, cats or any domesticated animal. It may be composed of edible fresh, frozen or cured meat, meat by-products, or fish either wholly or in part. It may also contain cereals and other edible food products in permissible proportions provided that the presence of any or all of such are indicated on the label.

All such canned dog and cat foods that comply with the regulations must bear the following notations on the label: "Production Supervised by State of California Department of Public Health, Bureau of Cannery Inspection." Furthermore, the terms "fit for human food" or "fit for human consumption" are prohibited on the labels of canned dog or cat foods.

1936 Graduate Fortnight: New York Academy of Medicine.—For the annual graduate fortnight of the New York Academy of Medicine a subject of outstanding importance in the practice of medicine and surgery is selected and is presented from as many angles as possible. An attempt is made to offer to the profession a grasp of the advances in medicine so that the busy practitioner may be informed as to the last word on a given topic.

The ninth annual graduate fortnight will be held October 19 to 31, and will be devoted to a consideration of trauma; occupational diseases and hazards.

Twenty-three important hospitals of the city will present coordinated afternoon clinics and clinical demonstrations. At the evening meetings prominent clinicians from various parts of the country who are recognized authorities in their special lines of work will discuss various aspects of the general subject.

A comprehensive exhibit of books, pathologic and research material, apparatus for resuscitation and other first-aid appliances will be assembled. Demonstrations will be held at regular intervals.

Some of the features to be presented at the meetings, in the clinics, and in the exhibit, will be: First aid in industry, in the home, and on the highway; accidents and their management; resuscitation; shock and hemorrhage; hazards of athletics; general principles of fracture treatment; fractures of the extremities; injuries of the head, spine, abdomen, chest, and genito-urinary systems; hand injuries; burns—thermal, electrical, radiant, and chemical; medico-legal aspects of trauma and disability; war injuries and emergencies, including injuries caused by the high explosives, medical aspects of chemical warfare, gas attack, gas defense; carbon monoxid poisoning; fatigue and noise in industry; harmful conditions in industry; occupational diseases; occupational hazards; industrial poisonings; relation of trauma to disease.

The medical profession is invited to attend. A complete program and registration blank may be secured by addressing Dr. Frederick P. Reynolds, the New York Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd Street, New York City.

The Spirit of Science.—In 1870 Gaston Paris, eminent French philologist, wrote a letter to a German scholar from which the following quotation is taken. This letter was written during the Franco-Prussian War at a time when the city of Paris was under siege. Nevertheless, the Frenchman remained steadfast in his devotion to ideals as expressed in this communication to a citizen of an enemy nation. The late Dr. Herman M. Adler, at a conference of heads of state institutions in California, referred to the high ideals expressed in this communication.

"I profess absolutely and without reservation this doctrine: that science has no other object than the truth, and the truth for its own sake, without any care as to the consequences, good or bad, regrettable or fortunate, which that truth may have in practice. He who through a patriotic motive, religious, and even moral, allows himself, in the facts that he is studying, in the conclusions that he draws, the least concealment, the slightest alteration, is not worthy of holding his place in the great laboratory where probity is a claim for admission more indispensable than skill. Thus understood, the studies that we share, carried on with the same spirit in all civilized countries, form, above nationalities which are restricted, diverse, and too often hostile, a great fatherland which no war soils, which no conqueror threatens, and in which men's souls find the refuge and the unity that the City of God has given them in other times."

Tuberculosis Death Rate Lowered.—There were 4,516 deaths from tuberculosis registered in California last year as compared with 4,611 such deaths registered in 1934. The rate dropped from 74.9 per hundred thousand in 1934 to 72 per hundred thousand in 1935.

Of the 4,516 individuals who died of tuberculosis in California last year, 3,179 had lived within the state for ten years or more, 576 had lived in California from five to nine years, 357 had lived here from one to four years, and 186 tuberculosis decedents had lived in California for less than one year. By months the length of residence within the state of tuberculosis decedents last year was as follows: Under one month, 22; one to three months, 44; four to six months, 43; seven to twelve months, 77.

Of these deaths 4,105 were due to tuberculosis of the lungs, 131 to tuberculosis of the meninges, 103 disseminated tuberculosis, and the remainder were caused by tuberculosis of other organs of the body.

A true tuberculosis death rate for each community of the state is not available for the reason that many county institutions where tuberculosis deaths occur in great numbers may be located within cities, thus providing an abnormally high tuberculosis death rate for the city. If the county hospital is in the rural district an abnormally high tuberculosis death rate is provided for the county as a whole.

It is noticeable that tuberculosis death rates are higher in those counties where state hospitals and other hospitals are located. In those counties where there are many private institutions for the specific treatment of the tuberculous the death rates are inordinately high. In those cities that are known to be centers for casual laborers the death rate is exceptionally high. The same is true also of some of the southern counties where there are large numbers of Mexicans and other foreign-born who possess little or no immunity against the disease.

In consideration of the fact that untold numbers of tuberculous individuals migrate to California each year in the hope of finding benefits in a favorable climate, the low tuberculosis death rate for the state constitutes an enviable record. To be sure, it is much higher than that for most of the other states. That it should be maintained at so low a level in spite of the unprecedented migration to California is a matter of congratulation. Credit also should be given to those counties which maintain adequate machinery for the prevention of the disease and for the removal and isolation of active cases.

\$5,358,760 in Social Security Checks Sent to Four States.—United States Treasury checks totaling \$5,358,759.96 were issued to California, Wisconsin, Washington, and Iowa to cover the public-assistance grants to those

states for the current quarter, April 1 to June 30, the Social Security Board announced recently.

California receives its first allotment of federal funds—\$2,700,140.63—following approval of the state's old-age assistance plan by the Social Security Board on May 6.

Wisconsin receives a total of \$1,272,790.83, which includes \$945,000 for aid to the aged, \$69,457.50 for aid to the blind, and \$258,333.33 for aid to dependent children. Washington receives \$700,703.50, consisting of \$486,202.50 for aid to the aged, \$39,501 for aid to the blind, and \$175,000 for aid to dependent children. Iowa receives \$685,125 for aid to the aged.

Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia have thus far taken advantage of the public-assistance provisions of the Social Security Act and are receiving federal aid in providing for their needy aged persons, blind persons, and dependent children. Federal contributions to these states for the three months ending June 30 are expected to total \$18,500,000.

In order to qualify for federal funds, states must set up public-assistance plans which meet certain requirements specified in the Social Security Act and must submit their plans to the Social Security Board for approval. When a state plan for aid to the needy aged or the blind is approved, the Federal Government will pay half of any amount, up to a combined federal-state total of \$30 a month to an individual, which the state grants to needy persons sixty-five years of age and over and to the needy blind, provided these aged or blind are not inmates of public institutions. The Federal Government also adds five per cent to its half in making its contribution. The states may use this additional amount for administering their plans, for cash payments to needy individuals, or for both.

Under approved plans for aid to dependent children, the Federal Government will match \$1 for every \$2 disbursed by the state for this form of assistance, up to a combined federal-state total of \$18 per month for the first dependent child in a family, and \$12 per month for each additional dependent child in the same family. Federal grants also include one-third of the state's administrative costs for this form of assistance.

LETTERS

Concerning article in "Time" in which American Medical Association and California Medical Association activities were mentioned.*

THE JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
535 NORTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO

June 8, 1936.

Dear Doctor Kress:

Rock Sleyster has written to me relative to certain doubts which seem to exist in your vicinity relative to my relationships to *Time* magazine.

Just as soon as I read your editorial on *Time* magazine in last month's issue, I wrote a letter to Henry Luce. He apparently turned the letter over to Myron Weiss, who is in charge of science editing. I enclose herewith copy of my letter to Mr. Luce. . . . This should let you know where I stand in relationship to *Time* magazine.

Sincerely yours,

MORRIS FISHBEIN.

* Note: Editorial comment was made in the May issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (page 355) concerning certain misstatements in the lay magazine, *Time*, in which the American and California Medical Associations were mentioned. The article in *Time* led to considerable conjecture as to the possible source of the statements made. Here and there names of different persons were mentioned in connection therewith. It is therefore of interest to note that officers of the American Medical Association had the same point of view as our own as expressed in the editorial criticisms written for the May CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. A letter from Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and one from Dr. Olin West, secretary of the American Medical Association, are here given.

THE JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
535 NORTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO

Mr. Henry R. Luce,

May 19, 1936.

New York City.

Dear Mr. Luce:

During the last two months physicians everywhere have begun to comment on innumerable inaccuracies in the section of *Time* devoted to medicine. Moreover, the point of view relative to the American Medical Association and relative to the attitude of the majority of physicians of this country toward socialization and regimentation of medicine has occasioned some doubt as to where *Time* stands on this matter.

I feel that the question is of sufficient importance to bring to your attention the enclosed statement from CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, which is the official publication of the California Medical Association. Incidentally, I can affirm everything that CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE says relative to the inaccuracies of the item which was published in *Time*.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MORRIS FISHBEIN.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Chicago, June 10, 1936.

Dear Doctor Kress:

I am greatly obliged to you for your letter of June 1, to which is attached a leaflet on Group Medical and Hospital Service, reprinted from the *Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Monthly*. I shall send this on to our Bureau of Medical Economics.

I have just been informed that at the recent meeting of the California Medical Association a statement was rather freely made to the effect that the American Medical Association had something to do in some mysterious way with the publication of certain items which recently appeared in the magazine *Time*. Any such rumor is, of course, without any basis in fact. Unfortunately, some of our friends seem to be so constituted that they do not require facts to serve as a basis for rumors which they help to circulate.

I shall be delighted to see the account of the Coronado meeting in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. I hope you had a splendid session.

With my sincere good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

OLIN WEST.

Concerning dinitrophenol and its dangers.

To the Editor:—I am referring to you a letter from the Cutter Laboratories stating their position in discontinuing the sale of dinitrophenol. In a conversation with their representative at the Arizona State Medical Association meeting at Nogales in April, 1936, I suggested that such ethical commercial laboratories as their own should discontinue the sale of this drug, on account of the unprecedented occurrence of cataracts in patients using dinitrophenol as a reducing medicine.

I was, therefore, pleased to learn from Dr. R. K. Cutter at the California State Medical Association meeting at Coronado in May that they had discontinued the sale of the drug.

You may have this correspondence for whatever publication you may desire to give to it in the interest of informing physicians of the dangers of the use of dinitrophenol.

Very truly yours,

HAROLD F. WHALMAN, M.D.

Dear Doctor Whalman:

Answering your letter of the 1st requesting our position in discontinuing the sale of dinitrophenol, I believe that this can best be done by quoting the letter which we send out when we refuse to fill orders.

We appreciate your recent order for dinitrophenol, but regret that we are unable to fill it, as we have discontinued the sale of this drug.

It was with considerable hesitation that we announced through the profession the availability of Dinitrophenol (Cutter). We did not do so because we thought the product had been proven, but rather because we knew that